



“You Are Accepted!”

Sun June 18, 2023

- I. **John 3:16-18**
 - A. **Condemn**
 1. **Judge against, punish, sentence.**
 2. “God is not judging you!”
 3. “If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all JUDGMENT unto Me.” (**John 12:31-32**)
 4. **Romans 8:1** “There is therefore now no condemnation...”
 - B. Understanding the Father’s Love (Poppa’s Love)
 1. For God so loved **ME** that He GAVE (The first and most important characteristic of love is that it gives and never takes away!)
 2. This is why the Spirit of the Lord said to the Ephesus church in **Revelation 2:4** to come back to their first love. (*We have gotten so busy in life that we have lost the importance of Poppa’s love....when we find it again, we will know that He accepts us because He loves us, and when we know that we are accepted, there is nothing the enemy can hold against us!*)
 3. *Why do we love God? Answer: Because He first loved us! (I John 4:19)*
- II. I Am Forgiveness....I Am Accepted....I Am Free
 - A. **The enemy’s divisive plan**
 1. He constantly tries to bombard your thoughts trying to get you to believe that God doesn’t love you like He does others.....*Listen carefully: If Jesus did not condemn a woman that was caught in adultery, that is good enough for you and for me! If Jesus chose a persecutor, a murderer of the disciples of the early church, to be the most profound preacher in his time, then that is good enough for you and for me!* God accepts you today...not because of what you have or haven’t done, but because of His love, the cross, and what Jesus has done. When He said, It is Finished....what was He referring to? The condemnation, the guilt, the shame....It has been undone!
 2. Are you Satan’s pawn or God’s child? (Don’t allow Satan to turn you against yourself).
 - B. Turning back to the Father – Restoring Confidence toward Him
 1. **I John 3:20-23**
 2. Do you believe in Jesus? Do you show God’s love to others? If so, then you are accepted by God!
 3. When you allow your heart to condemn you, Satan brings his overnight bag and his pajamas....and if you don’t deal with it in a timely fashion, he will become a live-in relative that no one wants around just like the Sitcom, “King of Queens” or constant family visitors in “Everybody loves Raymond.”